

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES: PO AO, (GEARHARDT, DANIEL)

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS (DANIEL GEARHARDT)

REF: LISBON 4670 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE TEXTS OF DEPARTMENT'S PRESS RELEASE IS QUOTED FOR
POST INFO.

PRESS GUIDANCE

JULY 12, 1976

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE ACCUSATIONS MADE THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING FOR RANSOM THE BODY OF DANIEL GEARHARDT FOR \$5,000?

ANSWER: WE CANNOT SPEAK TO THE SPECIFICS OF THAT ISSUE. WE CAN SAY THAT THE COST OF PREPARING A BODY FOR SHIPMENT, PLUS THE COST OF AIR FREIGHT, IS PROBABLY IN THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF \$4,000-5,000. THE COST OF PREPARATION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PRESERVATION (CREMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE), SUPPLY OF A SUITABLE SEALED COFFIN, PLUS EXPORT
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DOCUMENTATION, MAY RUN AS HIGH AS 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL

COST. WE ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO GET A MORE PRECISE FIGURE AS TO THOSE COSTS PLUS AIR FREIGHT FROM ANGOLA TO LISBON TO THE UNITED STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHIPMENT BY OCEAN FREIGHT EVEN IF AVAILABLE WOULD BE EVEN MORE COSTLY THAN AIR FREIGHT.

QUESTION: IS NOT THE COST OF \$5,000 FOR SHIPMENT OF A BODY FROM AFRICA HIGH?

ANSWER: OUR WORLDWIDE EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT \$2,500 IS AN AVERAGE FIGURE FOR REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. HOWEVER, COSTS VARY FROM LOCATION TO LOCATION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE KNOW THAT REPATRIATION FROM MOSCOW COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$4,000 AND REPATRIATION FROM LISBON COSTS \$3,000.

QUESTION: WOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSIST MRS. GEARHARDT IN THE REPATRIATION OF HER HUSBAND'S REMAINS?

ANSWER: THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE COST OF REPATRIATING THE REMAINS OF A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN. THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS STIPULATES THAT WHEN THE FAMILY, NEXT-OF-KIN, OR ESTATE CANNOT AFFORD REPATRIATION OR BURIAL IN PLACE, THAT THE CONSULAR OFFICER MUST LEAVE THE MATTER TO THE DISPOSITION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS. KISSINGER

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